

## **THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING**

### **NATIONAL DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**September 15, 2000**

**National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland**

#### **MINUTES**

The National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council convened for its thirty-seventh meeting on September 15, 2000, in Conference Room C, Neurosciences Center, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, MD. Dr. James F. Battey, Jr., Director, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), served as Chairperson. In accordance with Public Law 92-463, the meeting was:

Open: September 15, 2000: 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for the review and discussion of program development, needs and policy; and

Closed: September 15, 2000: 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for review of individual grant applications.

Council members present:<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Rita S. Berndt  
Dr. Gail D. Burd  
Dr. Bernard Cohen  
Dr. David P. Corey  
Dr. Judy R. Dubno  
Dr. Beverly Emanuel  
Dr. Bernard Harris  
Dr. Ronald R. Hoy  
Dr. Jacqueline E. Jones

Dr. Nicolas Linares-Orama  
Mr. John Madison  
Dr. Miriam H. Meisler  
Ms. Donna L. Sorkin  
Ms. Virginia W. Stern  
Dr. Orlando Taylor  
Dr. Ingo Titze  
Dr. Gregory T. Wolf

Council member absent:

Ms. Rebecca Dresser

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<sup>1</sup>For the record, it is noted that members absent themselves from the meeting when the Council is discussing applications (a) from their respective institutions or (b) in which a real or apparent conflict of interest might occur. This procedure applies only to individual discussion of an application and not to "en bloc" actions.

Ex-Officio Members present:

Dr. Lucille B. Beck

Ex-Officio Members absent:

Dr. John R. Franks

Dr. Michael E. Hoffer

The Council roster is found as Appendix 1.

Various members of the public, as well as NIDCD staff and other NIH staff, were in attendance during the open session of the Council meeting. A complete list of those present for all or part of the meeting is found in Appendix 2.

## **I. Call To Order and Opening Remarks ..... Dr. James F. Battey, Jr.**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Battey, Director, NIDCD, who expressed his appreciation to all Council members for their service and advice to the Institute. Dr. Battey welcomed and introduced four new members of Council:

- **Beverly S. Emanuel, Ph.D.**, is Professor of Pediatrics with Tenure, and Professor of Pediatrics in Human Genetics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Emanuel received her doctoral degree in microbiology from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Her current research includes cytogenetic and molecular studies of human chromosome 22 and velocardiofacial syndrome.
- **Nicolas Linares-Orama, Ph.D.** is on the faculty of the College of Health-Related Professions at the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Linares-Orama received his doctoral degree in Speech and Hearing Science from the University of Illinois In 1975. His research expertise focuses on Hispanic children with childhood autism; developmental assessment; and the association of language-learning disabilities with juvenile delinquency.
- **Ingo Titze, Ph.D.** is on the faculty of the University of Iowa Foundation in the Departments of Speech Pathology and Audiology, where he is also a Distinguished Professor in the School of Music. Dr. Titze received his doctoral degree in physics from Brigham Young University. His current research includes stimulation of voice qualities in speech and biomechanics of the larynx.
- **John P. Madison, Ed.D.** is an Associate Professor in the Department of English, at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, in Rochester, New York. Dr. Madison received his Ed.D. in Curriculum /Elementary Education from the University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois. His current activities include writing various publications relating to language arts and science for hearing-impaired children.

## **II. Council Procedures ..... Dr. Craig A. Jordan**

### **Procedural Matters**

Dr. Jordan discussed important procedural matters, including requirements imposed by the Government in the Sunshine Act and the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The necessity of members avoiding conflict of interest, or the appearance thereof, was stressed, as was the need to maintain confidentiality concerning the proceedings and materials related to the closed portion of the meeting. Dr. Jordan announced that the Council meeting would be open to the public during the morning session, but would be closed for consideration of grant applications during the afternoon.

### **Consideration of Minutes from the Meeting of May 24, 2000**

Dr. Battey called members' attention to the Minutes of the Council's meeting of May 24, 2000. The minutes were approved as written, with one minor editorial change to the roster.

### **Confirmation of Dates for Future Council Meetings**

Dates for the Council meetings through September 2002 have been established. A list of these meetings was distributed to the Council members. The next meeting of Council is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2001 on the NIH campus, Bethesda, Maryland.

## **III. Report of the Director, NIDCD ..... Dr. Battey**

### **Budget Considerations**

Without an approved FY2001 budget, Dr. Battey's presentation was predicated upon the tentative Senate appropriation figures. Dr. Battey discussed how the nearly \$55.2 million available for new and competing research project grants will be allocated in FY2001. After consideration of pre-existing commitments, and equally distributing funds across the three Councils, approximately \$15.9 million is available for the September Council. Twenty percent of this (\$3.2 million) will be designated for High Program Priority. This leaves approximately \$12.7 million available for the initial payline, which should allow funding of applications to the 30th percentile. A copy of the slide Dr. Battey used for his budget presentation is included in these Minutes as Appendix 3.

#### **IV. Report of the Director, Division of Extramural Research ..... Dr. Robert Dobie**

##### *New Investigators*

The NIDCD definition of "new principal investigator (PI)" is based on two criteria:

- Less than 10 years following the terminal degree (clinical training years are not counted against this 10-year period).
- No prior R01 or R29, as P.I.

There was discussion by Council that this definition might exclude individuals who wished to make mid-career transitions to research after relatively long periods in teaching or clinical practice. Dr. Battey indicated that the Institute would consider a flexible approach in determining such individuals' eligibility. Such an approach would require staff to determine whether an individual PI had had "substantial" research support from sources other than NIH; the required information is often not available in the grant application. This would allow such individuals to take full benefit of NIDCD policies/practices designed to assist new PIs. For purposes of tracking the Institute's success in increasing the number of funded new PIs, the simple NIDCD definition permits classification based on information readily available to staff. While it may require special consideration for a few individuals, such as those described above, it will reliably track trends over time.

##### *Staff Recruitment*

Dr. Dobie reported that Dr. Barry Davis has been selected as a Health Scientist Administrator in the Scientific Programs Branch. He has primary responsibility for the portfolio of taste grants. Recruitment is underway to fill the Health Scientist Administrator positions left vacant by Dr. Beth Ansel and Dr. Rochelle Small, both of whom accepted positions in other Institutes. The recent retirement of Ms. Sharon Hunt, Chief of the Grants Management Branch, has led to a recruitment process to identify her replacement as well. Dr. Dobie encouraged Council's participation in disseminating information about these recruitments.

##### *NIDCD Initial Review:*

In response to Dr. Battey's request, Dr. Luecke and Dr. Dobie recently assembled a group of DER staff to begin a process to evaluate the Institute's review activities. The group assembled for the purpose of open discussion as a initial effort of defining the goals and process of the evaluation.

Several issues were discussed:

- What are the proper roles for standing committees (such as CDRC) vs. special emphasis panels (SEPS)?

- Does CDRC have adequate representation of expertise across the scientific areas of NIDCD? Should it be expanded again?
- Should NIDCD have more than one standing committee, or form subcommittees within CDRC?
- Should review groups be defined by grant mechanism (K, P, etc.); mission area (auditory, chemical senses, language, etc.; or level of analysis (cellular/molecular, integrative, clinical)?
- Should the group that finally is formed to study and report on these issues include people from other NIH Institutes or Centers, from the extramural research community, or other communities?

After this initial meeting, Dr. Jordan prepared a description of how reviews are conducted within NIDCD. He is surveying review colleagues across NIH for descriptions of their institute's review structures/practices. A future meeting will consider the additional materials and help plan the process to be used for this review activity.

## **V. Concept Clearance for Potential**

### **New Initiatives ..... Dr. Donald Luecke**

In accordance with recommendations from the NIDCD Study Group on R&D Contracts and Other Special Initiatives, the Work Group on Concept Clearance (WGCC) was established to provide concept clearance for Institute initiatives that would require set-aside funds (RFP's, RFA's and PAS's). The WGCC will meet in open session three times a year, generally in the afternoon of the day preceding regularly scheduled NIDCD Advisory Council meetings, to provide concept clearance for possible research initiatives. Dr. Craig Jordan will coordinate these activities and serves as executive secretary to the work group.

The WGCC is comprised of three Advisory Council members, one of whom serves as Chair, plus one member from the NIDCD Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC). Additional (ad hoc) members will be identified as needed. The terms of service for members of the WGCC coincide with their terms as Advisory Council or BSC members.

Potential initiatives (both new and renewal) will be presented by NIDCD staff to the WGCC. In advance of the meeting, the executive secretary provides the WGCC with a one-page description of the proposed initiative and, as appropriate, back-up materials from earlier feasibility considerations. Following a brief presentation by the staff member proposing the initiative and Qs and As, the WGCC will address five issues:

- significance of the initiative to the mission of the NIDCD;
- availability of the technology and other resources necessary to achieve the required goals (i.e., can the initiative be accomplished?);
- scientific or clinical utility of the initiative;
- when relevant, the likelihood that the proposed methodology will accomplish

the goals of the initiative;

- adequacy of inclusion of women and minorities in clinical research, if applicable.

Favorably recommended concept initiatives, which are slated for set-aside funding, will be noted by the Division Directors in their presentations to the Advisory Council.

Current WGCC membership includes Council members Dr. Gail Burd, Chair; Dr. David Corey, Dr. Gregory Wolf and Board of Scientific Counselors member Dr. Randall Reed.

## **VI. NIDCD Research Training:**

### **Augmented Programs and New Initiatives ..... Dr. Daniel Sklare**

Dr. Daniel Sklare, Scientific Programs Branch, Division of Extramural Research, presented a summary of recent developments in the NIDCD Extramural Research Training and Career Development Program. These developments were catalyzed by recommendations made to the Institute by the Work Group on Research Training and Career Development, held on December 8-9, 1999. A dissertation-stage individual predoctoral fellowship (F31) program has been inaugurated in collaboration with four other NIH Institutes. Predoctoral and postdoctoral fellowship applications received by the NIDCD (with the exception of the those responding to the NIH-wide F31 programs for underrepresented minority students and students with disabilities) are now reviewed by the NIDCD Scientific Review Branch rather than by the NIH Center for Scientific Review; this facilitates an expedited submission-to-award schedule of four months. The new provisions to the NIDCD mentored clinician-investigator (K-series) awards were presented. The augmentation of the NIDCD Small Grant (R03) to serve a career development purpose was underscored.

## **VII. "Cochlear Implants – Past, Present And Future " .....Dr. Richard Miyamoto**

Dr. Battey introduced Dr. Richard Miyamoto, a former member of the NIDCD Advisory Council, and Arilla Spence Devault Professor and Chairman of the Department of Otolaryngology-HNS, at Indiana University, School of Medicine. Dr. Miyamoto discussed his exciting research on cochlear implants. Following is an abstract of Dr. Miyamoto's presentation:

### **COCHLEAR IMPLANTS – PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**

The electrically generated sensation of hearing has been extensively studied since Djourno and Eyries first described direct excitation of the auditory nerve in 1957. Devices of increasing sophistication have secured a permanent role for cochlear implants in the management of selected severely and profoundly deaf children and adults. Cochlear implants seek to replace a nonfunctional inner-ear hair cell transducer system by converting mechanical sound energy into electrical signals that can be delivered to the cochlear nerve in profoundly deaf patients. The signals are introduced through a surgically implanted electrode array positioned in the cochlea.

The full impact of cochlear implants can be documented only through detailed longitudinal studies. A trend toward earlier cochlear implantation in children has emerged in an attempt to ameliorate the devastating effects of early auditory deprivation. A wide range of performance is seen with current implant systems. This performance variation is thought to relate to both biologic and cognitive abilities. Patients are able to reestablish environmental contact and enhance their speech-reading abilities and many cochlear implant patients can communicate without the benefit of lip reading.

Improvements in speech perception are the most direct benefit of cochlear implantation. However, if children with cochlear implants are to succeed in the hearing world, they must also acquire intelligible speech. The most successful pediatric cochlear implant users are demonstrating intelligible speech and age appropriate language skills. These superior performers are usually implanted at a young age and are educated in an oral/aural modality.

**VIII. Report of the Scientific Director,  
Division of Intramural Research ..... Dr. Robert Wenthold**

NIH policy requires that the National Advisory Council to each Institute review the activities of their respective intramural program once a year. Dr. Robert Wenthold, Scientific Director of NIDCD's Division of Intramural Research (DIR), presented the report.

He began his report by introducing Dr. David Robinson, who was recently appointed as Deputy Scientific Director. Dr. Wenthold announced that two investigators have accepted tenure track positions in the DIR. They are Dr. Doris Wu, formerly a Research Fellow with the NIDCD; and Dr. Matthew Kelley, formerly Assistant Professor, Department of Cell Biology, Georgetown University. Dr. Andrew Griffith has also been recruited for a tenure track position. Dr. Wenthold summarized the academic background and research interests of each of these investigators.

The Intramural Research Program currently consists of six tenured scientists and seven tenure track scientists, three in the clinical track and four in the basic science track. Dr. Wenthold closed his report with a discussion of the membership and responsibilities of the Board of Scientific Counselors

**CLOSED SESSION**

**IX. Report of the Board of Scientific Counselors .....Dr. Battey**

Dr. Battey presented the Report of the Board of Scientific Counselors (BSC). As stipulated by law, each Institute, Center or Division must provide annually to its National Advisory Council an overview of its intramural research program. The overview should include the reports of the BSC, and the responses of the Scientific Director. This presentation is strictly informational; Council members are not asked to recommend approval or disapproval of the reports or to modify them in any way. However, the Council



may make recommendations to the Director, NIDCD regarding such research on the basis of the materials provided.

[Executive Secretary Note: During the BSC presentation, attendance was restricted to the Council members, the Director, NIDCD; the Deputy Director, NIDCD; the Director, Division of Extramural Research, NIDCD; and the Executive Secretary of the Council. ]

## **X. Council Consideration of Pending Applications**

The Council gave special attention to applications from foreign institutions and to applications involving issues related to protection of human subjects, animal welfare, biohazards and/or minority and gender representation in study populations as identified by the initial review groups.

### **A. Research Project Grant Awards**

1. Consideration of Applications: On the Council's agenda was a total of 120 research grant applications; 86 applications had primary assignment to NIDCD, in the amount of \$18.5 million first-year direct costs. It is anticipated that, of the applications competing at this Council, NIDCD will be able to award grants to applications scoring through the 30th percentile.

### **B. Special Programs Actions**

1. Small Business Innovation Research Awards (SBIR). The Council recommended support for six Phase I (R43) and six Phase II (R44) applications.
2. Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR): The Council recommended support for one Phase II (R42) application.
3. Small Grants (R03): The Council recommended support for thirteen applications.
4. Academic Research Enhancement Awards (R15): The Council recommended support for one application.
5. Research Core Centers (P30): The Council recommended support for three applications.
6. Clinical Research Center Grant (P50): The Council recommended support for one application.
7. Intervention Strategies Following the Early Identification of Hearing Impairment (PAS-99-011) (R01): The Council recommended support for two applications.



8. NIDCD Minority Dissertation Research Grants in Human Communication (RFA-DC00-001) (R03): The Council recommended support for four applications.
9. Exploratory Developmental Grants - RFA MH00-002 (R21): The Council recommended support for one application.
10. Impact of HAART on HIV/CNS Disease (RFA MH00-003) (R01): The Council recommended support for two applications.

**D. Career Development Programs**

1. Independent Scientist Award (K02): The Council recommended support for one application.
2. Mentored Clinical Scientist Development Award (K08): The Council recommended support for one application.
3. Mentored Patient-Oriented Research Award (K23): The Council recommended support for one application.
4. Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (K24): The Council recommended support for one application.

**X. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m. on September 15, 2000.

## **XI. Certification of Minutes**

We certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes and attachments are accurate and correct.<sup>2</sup>

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Craig A. Jordan, Ph.D.  
Executive Secretary  
National Deafness and Other Communication  
Disorders Advisory Council

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James F. Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
Chairman  
National Deafness and Other Communication  
Disorders Advisory Council

Director  
National Institute on Deafness and  
Other Communication Disorders

Jeannie Combs  
Council Assistant

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<sup>2</sup> These minutes will be formally considered by the Council at its next meeting; corrections or notations will be incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

## **APPENDICES**

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Roster**

#### National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Council

#### **Chairperson**

Battey, James F., Jr., M.D., Ph.D.

Director

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

Bethesda, Maryland 20892

BERNDT, Rita S., Ph.D. Professor Department of Neurology University of Maryland School of Medicine Baltimore, Maryland	2002	DRESSER, Rebecca S., J.D. Professor, School of Law and Program for the Humanities in Medicine Washington University School of Law St. Louis, Missouri	2001
BURD, Gail D., Ph.D. Professor and Associate Department Head Molecular and Cellular Biology University of Arizona Tucson, Arizona	2003	DUBNO, Judy R., Ph.D. Professor Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery Medical University of South Carolina Charleston, SC	2003
COHEN, Bernard, M.D. Morris B. Bender Professor of Neurology Department of Neurology Mount Sinai School of Medicine City University of New York New York, New York	2002	EMANUEL, Beverly S., Ph.D. The Charles E.H.Upham Professor of Pediatrics University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Chief, Division of Human Genetics and Molecular Biology The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Philadelphia, PA	2004
COREY, David P., Ph.D. Professor of Neurobiology Harvard Medical School Neurobiologist, Department of Neurobiology Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, Massachusetts	2001	HARRIS, Bernard A., Jr., M.D. Vice President Microgravity and Life Science SPACEHAB, Inc. Houston, Texas	2002
		HOY, Ronald R., Ph.D. Professor Section of Neurobiology and Behavior Cornell University Ithaca, New York	2003

JONES, Jacqueline E., M.D. Associate Professor of Clinical Otolaryngology Cornell University Medical College New York, New York	2002	<u>Ex-Officio Members:</u>  BECK, Lucille B., Ph.D. Director Audiology and Speech Pathology Service Department of Veterans Affairs Washington, D.C.
LINARES-ORAMA, Nicolas, Ph.D. University of Puerto Rico Medical Sciences Campus San Juan, Puerto Rico	2004	FRANKS, John R., Ph.D. Chief, Bioacoustics and Occupational Vibration Section Physical Agent Effects Branch Division of Biomedical and Behavioral Science National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Cincinnati, Ohio
MADISON, John P., Ed.D. Associate Professor Department of English National Technical Institute for the Deaf Rochester, NY	2004	HOFFER, Michael E., M.D. Department of Otolaryngology Naval Medical Center San Diego, California
MEISLER, Miriam H., Ph.D. Professor Human Genetics Department School of Medicine University of Michigan Ann Arbor, Michigan	2003	SHALALA, Donna E., Ph.D. Secretary Department of Health and Human Services Washington, D.C.
SORKIN, Donna L. Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Washington, DC	2002	KIRSCHSTEIN, Ruth L., M.D. Acting Director National Institutes of Health Bethesda, Maryland
STERN, Virginia W. American Association for the Advancement of Science Washington, D.C.	2001	<u>EXECUTIVE SECRETARY</u>  JORDAN, Craig A., Ph.D. Executive Secretary Division of Extramural Activities, NIDCD Bethesda, Maryland
TAYLOR, Orlando L., Ph.D. Dean Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Howard University Washington, D.C.	2001	
TITZE, Ingo R., Ph.D. Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology University of Iowa Iowa City, IA	2004	
WOLF, Gregory T., M.D. Chair, Department of Otolaryngology- Head and Neck Surgery University of Michigan Medical Center Ann Arbor, Michigan	2001	

## **Appendix 2**

### **ATTENDANCE LIST**

Other than Council members, attendees at the September 2000 Council meeting included:

#### **NIDCD Staff:**

##### **Office of the Director**

Luecke, Donald H., M.D., Deputy Director

Phillips, Isabelle, Secretary

Lopez, Joyce, Program Specialist

##### **Office of Administration**

Kerr, W. David, Executive Officer

##### **Financial Management Branch**

Sparks, Patience, Budget Officer

##### **Information Systems Management Branch**

Hamilton, Sue, Chief

##### **Science Policy and Legislation Branch**

Smith, Mary, Acting Chief

Wong, Baldwin, Program Analyst

##### **Equal Employment Opportunities Branch**

Johnson-Graham, Kay, EEO Officer

##### **Division of Extramural Research**

Dobie, Robert A., M.D., Director

Combs, Jeannie, Program Analyst

DaSilva, Maria, Program Assistant

Holmes, Debbie, Secretary

Stephenson, Nanette, Program Assistant

##### **Grants Management Branch**

Hunt, Sharon, Chief

Chicchirichi, David, Grants Management Specialist

Dabney, Sherry, Grants Management Officer

McNamara, Castilla, Grants Management Specialist

Ranney, Meigs, Grants Management Officer

##### **Scientific Programs Branch**

Cooper, Judith, Ph.D., Chief; and Program Director, Language

Davis, Barry, Ph.D., Program Director, Taste/Gustation

Small, Rochelle, Ph.D., Program Director, Smell/Olfaction  
Gulya, Julie, M.D., Program Director, Clinical Trials

Hearing and Balance/Vestibular Section

Donahue, Amy, Chief; and Program Director, Hearing  
Freeman, Nancy, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing  
Johnson, Thomas, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing  
Luethke, Lynn, Ph.D., Program Director, Hearing  
Sklare, Daniel A., Ph.D., Program Director, Balance/Vestibular

Scientific Review Branch

Jordan, Craig A., Ph.D., Chief  
Oaks, Stanley C., Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator  
Stick, Melissa J., Ph.D., M.P.H., Scientific Review Administrator

Division of Extramural Research

Wentholt, Robert, M.D., Scientific Director  
Robinson, David, M.D., Deputy Scientific Director

Center for Scientific Review, NIH

Kimm, Joseph, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator  
Kenshalo, Daniel, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator  
Meadow-Orlans, Kathryn, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator  
Sostek-Miller, Anita, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator  
Melchior, Christine, Ph.D., Scientific Review Administrator

Others

Moss, Sharon, Ph.D., American Speech and Hearing Association  
Stone, Alec, Ph.D., Deafness Research Foundation



### **Appendix 3**

#### **NIDCD Director's Report Slides**

As Presented By  
James F. Battey, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.  
NIDCD Advisory Council Meeting

September 15, 2000

